IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-15 (Canceled).

Claim 16 (New): A process for bending glass sheets heated to their softening point, comprising:

laying the glass sheets on a concave bending frame to be prebent by gravity;

transferring the prebent glass sheets to a transfer former with a concave forming surface, whose outside dimensions are smaller than those of an area enclosed by the concave bending frame, by moving the transfer former in a generally vertical relative movement through the concave bending frame;

positioning the transfer former to vertically overlie a final bending former in a form of a frame with a concave forming surface, the outside dimensions of the transfer former being smaller than those of the area enclosed by the concave final bending former;

moving the transfer former in a generally vertical relative movement through a final bending former in a form of a frame, the glass sheets being laid on the final bending former;

bending the glass sheets into a final shape; and

transferring at an end of the bending, the glass sheets in their final shape from the final bending former to a transport system and cooling the glass sheets.

Claim 17 (New): The process as claimed in claim 16, wherein the glass sheets are put through an additional bending operation on the transfer former by a differential pressure.

Claim 18 (New): The process as claimed in claim 16, wherein the glass sheets are bent into their final shape on the final bending former by gravity.

Claim 19 (New): The process as claimed in claim 16, wherein the glass sheets are bent into their final shape using an upper former complementary in shape to the final bending former, which presses the glass sheets in at least their edge region onto the final bending former.

Claim 20 (New): The process as claimed in claim 19, wherein the press bending is assisted by a differential pressure.

Claim 21 (New): The process as claimed in claim 16, wherein individual glass sheets are bent.

Claim 22 (New): The process as claimed in claim 21, wherein following the final bending operation, the individual glass sheets are removed from the final bending former on a toughening ring and toughened.

Claim 23 (New): The method as claimed in claim 16, wherein plural glass sheets placed on top of each other are bent.

Claim 24 (New): The method as claimed in claim 23, wherein the plural glass sheets placed on top of each other are, following the final bending, removed from the final bending former on a cooling system and cooled to a temperature below their softening point.

Claim 25 (New): A system for bending glass sheets heated to their softening point, comprising:

an oven configured to heat the glass sheets,;

a concave bending frame configured to carry and prebend the heated glass sheets;

a transfer former with a concave forming surface, whose perimeter is smaller than a perimeter of the bending frame and on which the glass sheets are transferred;

a final bending former with a concave forming surface, whose perimeter is greater than the perimeter of the transfer former, and to which the glass sheets are transferred from the transfer former;

a drive configured to move the bending frame, the transfer former, and the final bending former in the direction of the respective transfer of the glass sheets; and

a transport configured to transport the glass sheets, bent to their final shape, to a cooling station.

Claim 26 (New): The system as claimed in claim 25, wherein the transfer former is provided with means for producing a depression between its forming surface and the glass sheets.

Claim 27 (New): The system as claimed in claim 26, wherein the transfer former has a solid concave surface.

Claim 28 (New): The system as claimed in claim 25, further comprising an upper former complementary in shape to the final bending former, configured to be placed in contact with at least edge regions of the glass sheets placed on the final bending former.

Claim 29 (New): The system as claimed in claim 28, wherein the upper former is provided with means for producing a differential pressure between the forming surface of the upper former and the upper surface of the glass sheets.

Claim 30 (New): The system as claimed in claim 28, wherein the upper former has a solid convex surface.